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SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 1968

VICTORIA B. C.



BIAFRA

ONLY A PAWN

"It would be an act of war if the Canadian government tried to deliver food to Biafra without the approval of the Nigerian federal government." "... against a friendly state..."

Prime Minister Trudeau.



BIAFRA

It was thought that possibly all the Ibos would be dead by the time this issue of Fulcrum came out, but it seems that there are still about six million of them left, out of a starting figure of eight million. However, a little reflection revealed the premise that it must take considerable time to wipe out a population of eight million at a mere 3,000 per day (The Daily Colonist, August 13.) or 40,000 per week, (Time, August 2, 1968). The various international groups of capital who think this genocide is necessary are now presented with the same figure Adolf Hitler was confronted with--6,000,000 to go. Except this time the potential victims are the black "Jews of Africa."

THE WAY IT ISN'T In the meantime, although there are signs of hide-bound beliefs being shaken if not shattered here and there, the Alices of this World Wonderland have their rose-coloured glasses firmly in place, even if the hand that adjusts them trembles a little now and then.

With variations the visionary story could go like this: Alice fell asleep and dreamed that she looked through a giant telescope at a planet far out in the Milky Way, where all the people were born equal, but evil. However they did have good in them too, and there was a never ceasing struggle between the good and the bad forces. The inborn greed of people pitted them against each other AND against their society. The interests of society coincided with good, and those people who at times helped their fellow man--(society) were good. Some men were not only good men, they were also smart men. These gifted people led the rest of the people, who through no fault of their own were not quite so brainy, and who therefore had to be shown what to do for themselves.

THE WAY IT ISN'T

However, though they were all born equal, during passage of great time, about ninety per cent of them became very unequal. The other ten per cent--leaders, great men and public benefactors, were at the top and seemed to have far more equality than they knew what to do with and idled in marble palaces beside gracious swimming pools. And, strange as it may seem, the more benefiting these public benefactors did for the public, the more equality they seemed to acquire. Something like Russian soldiers in Czechoslovakia, the more troops that leave the country, the more there are still left there.

But it came to pass that in distant parts of this planet a new species arose. Smart men who were not good, but evil. And they oppressed the poor people in those distant lands and rode roughshod over them. Furthermore, according to the good leaders of the first land, these evil leaders desired to ride roughshod over the people here also. The people listened with awe and responded with alacrity, that their land not be rode roughshod over and their loved ones ravished. Although the slaughter was revolting, it was not as revolting as being rode over rough shod would have been. Although peace reigned over this strange planet at times, there always seemed to be new evil leaders rising up in far lands ready to destroy and to desecrate and the killing had to be resumed.

Appalled by this rude behavior, some enlightened intellectuals looked down upon the black and white or good vs bad theorists as being oversimplified. "Of course, all things do not exist in terms of black and white," they said, "there are intervening shades of grey." "But shades of grey between what?" asked a few recent upstarts. "The extreme poles of black and white, of course," admonished the upstarts as they tried to proclaim to all and sundry that your straight and narrow path of good guys versus bad guys, even with shades of grey, was a mirage caused by heat waves in the deserts of this place and perpetuated by public benefactors. The great wars of justice continued. About this time the lens in the telescope cracked, the view across the vistas of space was broken, and Alice woke up.

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE? THE MORE THEY STAY THE SAME

Alice's Problems Continued

an unconscious way of attempting to straighten out the very crooked events of the daytime nightmare, (A sort of night-time day-mare.)

What frustrated Alice was the mental turmoil of two very conflicting premises competing for acceptance in her mind. She had seen others dismiss the new premise with a bad guy label so that they could resume watching pleasant things on television with beer and deep fried prawns and an untroubled mind.

Such lethargies were humdrums to Alice and this may be one reason why she subscribed to that little magazine she had found in a bus on the way home from another humdrum that did not interest her--assembly line labor for wages.

This little paper claimed that the planet earth, with only a few primitive exceptions, is divided not between good and evil forces, but between owners and non-owners of the means whereby all must live. This causes a struggle between those who produce but do not own and those who own but do not produce. It tends to be a one-sided struggle at present because the property-less do not know there is a struggle as the owners control most of the means of information too. They (as they think is most right and in the interests of all) condition the mentalities and lives of the producers to produce just one way--for sale for the profit of the owners. Part of this conditioning consists of ideology. The working people must be convinced of the truth, that they are not the lower part of a class divided social arrangement, but part of something good for all, such as "Democracy", "Communism," Fascism, republicanism, Necessary Dictatorship or what-have-you-that's-needed-right-now-to-save-profits.

Alice noticed something else that she had not seen in other printed matter. The people who wrote this little magazine gave lots of evidence to substantiate their points. Also, there was no advertising in it. They were free to call the shots as they saw them. Another thing these writers pointed out was that the earth is divided not only into classes but geo-politically also, into units called nations, of such a size as to best manage the important business of production of the necessary things of life for the profit of a few.

Although the owners are aware that many of the conditions of life for the producers are miserable, they are not aware of any alternative arrangement that would be better for them. So they continue to tell them what they believe is best for all.

The national groups of owners often need places to sell their commodities outside their own national areas of control and they consequently come into competition with other national capitals over the markets and resources they need. If things get really bad they train and equip their workers to go out and subdue their competitors by violent means, because profits must prevail; this is the only known way and those resources are needed. Besides, if the bosses make no profits, how are the workers going to eat? Wars, among other things, are necessary to keep businesses prosperous, enabling workers to continue making payments on shoddy goods that wages don't give them the freedom to pay cash for.

Alice's psychologist told her that the process of dreaming is a kind of mental sorting,

THE WAR IN BIAFRA

Equipped with her new understanding that seemed to make so much more sense than the old theories, Alice commenced to explore a war that had been bothering her for weeks. The thought of all those poor little Ibo children dying of starvation in Biafra prompted her to make a \$10.00 donation to her local bank which sported a sign saying, "We can't let it happen. The Nigeria/Biafra relief fund. (Give here)." Which worked in conjunction with the local church.

The causes of the war, as implied by "Time" (Aug. 23) seemed to be over naive to Alice,--"...Ethnic facts that have split Nigeria...?" Ethnic groups have existed in Africa since time immemorial, with some of them periodically warring against the other groups, while most of them avoided contact with other communities. Furthermore, how could all this commotion be fermented by tribal warfare--spears and bows and arrows? Also, there had been tribal wars before completely free of any enhancement of the "self-determination rights" of the combatants by outside national powers. Why was Britain and Russia, Czechoslovakia, France and China sending modern arms to the two belligerents? How did ignorant spear throwers know how to fire a howitzer?

Alice found that she had to fit pieces together from a maze of news reports and magazine articles whose sponsors all had political "axes" to grind.

Some of the clues came from the same "Time" article, which said, in giving some history of Nigeria--"the enterprise of black traders and businessmen flourished, based on exports of palm oil and cocoa." "...drillers discovered deep oil pools in the Niger delta, a strike that made Nigeria the world's 13th largest oil producer." Also that, "Nigeria's 56 million people had built a sturdy economy and installed an active parliamentary government." Another of the successful businessmen, according to "Time" was the present Biafra leader's father, SIR Louis Odumegwu Ojukwu, who, in "Time's" quaint vernacular, "built up a vast fortune in transport, real estate and securities." (As if no one else had anything to do with it.)

Biafra's millionaire leader himself had the best formal English education that a rich father could buy. "Aha," said Alice, "this is no jungle of primitive tribesmen, but an up-to-date modern nation of rich businessmen shareholders on the top strata and wage-workers underneath, with the age-old conflict of interests between the two economic classes. Or why would "Time" speak of, for instance, "other powerful Ibos," in addition to Ojukwu? Power over whom? Also apparent were the usual rivalries between different groups of capital within the national borders over guess what? The real picture was becoming much clearer to Alice now.

THE MODERN PHENOMENA OF RACE HATRED

She had noted in her observations and reading that unintentionally and unconsciously many of the working part of the public tended to unload their frustrations on other people, --scapegoats-- usually someone or some minority group who had different cultural habits, different religion or different color of skin. She had read of the prevalence of this phenomenon in every developed part of the globe, Russia, U.S., Britain, Canada, you name it. No surprisingly the same commercial economic foundation existed in all these places too, inflicting generally the same miseries and frustrations upon the unhappy majority who are tied to the wage-production grind. Alice could see no reason why the same conditions should not evoke similar effects in Nigeria.

And sure enough, there it was in the same "Time" article, a reference by Nigerian northerners of the "Ibo ring", and the nickname, "Jews of Africa." Vestigial ethnic differences alone could not stimulate a slaughter of this magnitude, as "Time" in all its innocence tried to imply. For a long time the Ibos had been more aggressive in the commercial rat-race, more financially successful, and at the same time more clannish in their habits, making them "made to order" scapegoats for the rest of the working population to blame their troubles on. Concurrently, being oriented toward efficient business activity, the profit conscious Ibo top strata chafed under the wasteful corruption and the domination of the Northern controlled government. Two coups later (first the Ibos, then the Northerners) tens of thousands of Ibos were slaughtered and hundreds of thousands maimed in a two-week session of systematic murder.

Fearing for biological and property survival, the Ibos formed a separate state-Biafra, with its own army. According to Der Speigel, as quoted in the Vancouver Sun, July 16, "With 14 million inhabitants, Biafra was the fifth largest country. Because of its large oil fields, Biafra was one of the richest African countries, because of its large percentage of academically trained people, one of the most developed." What a set-up for making money. Rich natural resources and a capable working class to produce profits for the Ibo owners! No wonder that Der Speigel said, "Biafra's rising sun threatened the existence of the rest of Nigeria." Another clue turned up in Alices' researches in the form of a statement by John O'Callaghan in an article in the Manchester Guardian, reprinted by the Victoria Daily Times (July 11) which mentioned "One successful Biafran magnate," (our emphasis) who was "high on the social scale."

Since the trend these days is for greater amalgamation of states for more efficient profit extraction, rather than division, substantial resistance to the idea of separate nationhood for the Ibo big boys was invoked by the main Nigerian Leader, Yakubu Gowon. He offered instead a 12 province make-up "that would have cut the Ibos off from their oil and their coastline." ("Time" - Aug. 23 - our emphasis.. By the great power of Ibo Kwennu, this was too much! To be denied the lawful loot of most of their business "enterprise" was inconceivable. Those Nigerian wheeler-dealers were getting too avaricious to be associated with. And since their own exploited workers (tribal brothers!) were convinced they must fight or be wiped out, the owners of Biafra didn't have to bother whipping up much patriotic fighting fervor as other rulers have had to do in other wars. Conversely, the circumstances fitted in well with the other side of the "grab-tag," the Nigerian money men with their ample supply of worker cannon-fodder, who "racially" hated the guts of every Ibo laborer. So the fratricide was on.



FOREIGN AID

TO HELP THE BACKWARD PEOPLE OF AFRICA

Since the peculiar organization of present world society provided the nourishment for civil war in Nigeria, the same social prerogatives made "foreign" participation necessary. Formerly a British colony, sections of the British owning establishment still possess large quantities of that sacred stuff called private property, in Nigeria. Der Speigel reports that the British were, exploiting the Biafran oil fields by way of B P & Shell, (but) joined the side with the better prospects. The Labor government in London sent 'defence weapons' as they were called by London -- to Lagos."

The British Labor government, as Alice had always heard, being the champion of the working man, must be suffering mental torture over what their job as chief executive of all British business compels them to do, as opposed to they as humans would rather do. But as Harold Morisson of London, quoted in THE DAILY COLONIST, Aug. 29th. said, "Nigeria has huge economic resources as well as geographic advantages." And, "stopping arms supplies might make the Ibos less willing to negotiate and 'Russia would be only too willing to fill the gap and gain the influence we would lose.'" Amen.

The money-bag men of the Kremlin lost no time in making their bid for some of the prizes to be won in Nigeria. According to reports they stipulated that their Migs were to be flown by Egyptian pilots, as they bombed the civilians of Biafra. This would be good training in preparation for another possible war with Israel over oil, etc. in the Middle East. Alice was beginning to get a little sick from the stench steaming out of the politics of international capital. Those poor, defenseless, freedom loving Czechs, during the time of their alleged absence from the clutches of the Russian bear, (January to August) were profiteering on Delfin Jets, sent over no doubt to educate the Africans into what freedom was all about. Until the publicity made it too embarrassing for them.

Then true-blue China added to the carnage with weapons for the Biafran rulers. China has just achieved a victory in another part of Africa by loaning \$240 million to build the Tan Zam railway --- for people? No. For copper, for profit. The ore can now be transported to the sea at Dar-es-Salaam. The Chinese bosses have also been helping themselves in Tanzania where the Canadian authorities too, are in the uplifting business by training these backward people in the fine arts of professional killing, at bargain prices.

Many of the guns used by the Ibos are "Czech or Chinese" because, well," as Weekend Magazine, No. 36/68 says, "business is business, and where there is a civil war there is a power vacuum to be filled." Der Speigel refers to two more of the friendly merchant types who are involved in this little war over piece-and-who's-going-to-have-it as "South African and French business partners." Other expansive groups were the Netherlands and Belgium with the Vatican, Portugal and Spain expressing what seemed to be unspiritual interest in the slicing of the pie in Nigeria.

GENOCIDE

AS A METHOD OF WAR

Alice noticed that some people who were beyond the hearing range of the patriotic slogans that kept the killers motivated on both sides were appalled at the Ibo starvation. They were puzzled, as well as appalled when their charitable but inadequate food donations failed to get through. Many were possibly involved in a moral crunch between what they thought should be legitimate murder methods and illegitimate or "unfair" rules. This is not the first time that people have found themselves in this dilemma. They wonder why their

humanitarian alleviations have no better lasting effect against the devastation caused by the commercial arrangement they support and regard as being natural and immutable. In the case of Biafra, bottles of champagne and food for the Ibo upper strata plus food and ammunition for the troops were arriving at their destination O.K., of course. But Alice wondered why people were surprised over the donations not getting to the starving children in the face of all the news reports that genocide, partly through starvation, was a policy of war on both sides.

Some people wondered why the UN with all its lofty window dressing was absent from the scene. Or why the US stood idly by. Maybe they didn't see the report by William R. Frye, in the VICTORIA DAILY TIMES, Aug. 3, which said, "Many other governments including that of the United States, have kept hands off, when action was clearly required, fearing to antagonize Lagos and thus endanger investments, trade and/or the ability to compete with Moscow for favor in the largest and one of the richest countries of black Africa." (Our emphasis).

Alice felt sorry for Norman Cousins, editor of the Saturday Review, when he asked in an article, "Isn't it conceivable that the greatest thing we could do for the national interest would be to commit ourselves to the human interest?" She wondered why he hadn't noticed that the national interest is without exception, the profit interest. He was embroiled in the good guy versus bad guy philosophy; was blaming this government or that great man, in this latest human tragedy. He couldn't understand why the US intervened in Laos, Lebanon, the Dominican Republic and Viet Nam, but refused to help the helpless in Biafra. She thought that if world events were such a puzzle to him that he might have made more of an attempt to understand the nature of society as it really is. She gave up the idea of meeting him and discussing these things. He was probably a busy man who lived quite a distance away, and wouldn't have time. She didn't have that much spare time herself, most days, after making a living and filling out forms in quadruplicate, paying bills, etc.

ALICE READ IN NEWSWEEK (July 22/1968) that the

British were sending food and

medicine to the children in Biafran territory --- that had been won by the Nigerians; in other words to children who they indirectly controlled. When she suspected that the children would not be fed to satisfy humanitarian instincts alone, but as a means to an ulterior objective, in spite of

the good intentions of the donars, she almost had an urge to go back to that bank, retrieve her 10 dollars and offer it to some educational institution to enlighten people from their world madness.

Another editor, closer to home, seemed to be baffled by Biafra too. He wrote several editorials in his paper, THE DAILY COLONIST lamenting the colossal human suffering, and the inability of the world to do much to help. Being a daily paper editor, he seemed to be another good-versus-evil theorist. In his July 31 editorial he asked: "How is it that do-gooder nations such as Canada, Great Britain and the United States --- normally always in the forefront of any campaign to help the less fortunate people of the world --- are now apparently content to sit on the sidelines and watch a thousand children a day die painful deaths?"

Alice's psychologist had also told her that the human mind inadvertently forgets unpleasant things of the past and has a tendency to recall the more pleasant things, both personally and socially. This is necessary for mental balance. And that even if this particular editor remembered about the Anglo-American air raid on the German city of Dresden 23 years ago, killing 135,000 people, he probably regarded it as happening at a time when Britain and the US were not quite normal. The MANCHESTER GUARDIAN, Feb. 14/67 called it "the biggest and quickest single massacre in history.....the Hiroshima bomb only killed 71,000." But he admitted that the phrase "normally always" was a pretty tricky one to get around.

PEOPLE

CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO STAND IN THE WAY OF PROFITS -

The common impression is that editors are pretty well informed, at least about events, past, present and imminent. They may be aware of the genocide practised on the American Indians in the frontier days by the US government and its brave cavalry, even if they aren't aware that the natives were regarded as intractable barriers to the free expansion and sway of capital to the remote corners of the domain. The monument that stands pristinely in the city centre of Bloemfontaine, South Africa, has been mentioned more than once in our editor's own paper. It stands in memory of 32,000 Boer women and children who died in British concentration camps. Alas, he may not know what the issues were that generated the Boer war. He may be compelled to continue struggling with the weighty theory about the good guys, and that Britain just has a lapse once in awhile and becomes abnormal, that is, a "bad guy."

Did he not read the book review in his own paper of the million people who died in the Irish famine of 1845-49? While under British control Ireland was producing enough food to feed twice its population, and shipping it abroad, mostly to England. (Feb. 24/63). Food is produced for sale. It can't be given away to people who are merely hungry, when money can be made out of it, except in cases where more money can be made from the labors of the recipients.

Has our editor not heard of the atrocities committed against the natives of the Congo for ivory? Or the way the US authorities have treated their own workers in times gone by, too numerous to be mentioned here? Or the way Canadians treated the Indians (and still do), including the now extinct Beothucks of Newfoundland?

Our editor asked the same question about the East European countries "who boast" that their "Communist" ideology is the most humanitarian of all political philosophies. But he seemed to have tongue-in-cheek on that one. Maybe he knows they're not really Communist, and maybe he knows something of their shady pasts.

Alice secretly wished that she had some magic way of reaching these confused but good intentioned people. So that they could better understand why, for instance, the order of priority on the agenda of one of the peace talks held in Addis Abbaba by the Nigerian and Biafran leaders went like this - FIRST: arrangements for a settlement, (you know, dollars & cents, oil, etc. territory,) SECOND: Terms for a ceasefire. LAST: relief supplies for the starving. (Daily Colonist, Aug. 13/68)

She could explain why a local man was fined a hundred dollars for leaving a hundred rabbits unattended while in another part of this shrinking planet the systematic starvation of masses of people assumes the form of political principle and national policy.

BUSINESS AS USUAL

A Bank of America agent sent to Port Harcourt to "pick up the pieces" was surprised to find the bank untouched, and its records intact, says Mert Rosenblau, (Times, July 15). The Uniliver agent said the United Africa Company lost three buildings to fire. "The Bank of America man is considering moving back shortly just to keep an eye on the property." (Our emphasis).

"The war has cost Nigeria perhaps 420,000,000 dollars" says a report in The Daily Colonist of Sept. 18, "plus the loss of large oil revenues which were just beginning to be a major part of its wealth when the war started."

The report continues- "But if the Nigerians can solve their tribal, political and military problems, and create a stable society, the flow of oil could pay for the war damage in five years." (That was Haile Selassie's pitch on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, 'don't fight over it fellas, let's keep production going, there's enough for all of us.)

"Nigerians future is brilliant," one Western diplomat has said. "'Only its present is cloudy.'" (Our's again.) Property and profits are being lost now. But the future for profits in Nigeria is "brilliant." Unfortunately there is nothing brilliant about the future of the human pawns in Nigeria, or elsewhere.

Alice was aware of the seething frustration suffered by millions of people, who, moved by their natural instincts to help others in distress, were "stopped dead in their tracks" by the monetary priorities of the modern world. And that they were not even conscious of the social forces that caused this latest tragedy in the first place.

She wondered whether she should trust in dreams tonight - to take her away from the horror of it all, or see her psychiatrist again. On second thought she remembered that her account was getting very unbalanced, in his favor, and that her job was not too secure at the present time. She would take a sleeping pill instead. She had to get the image of all those wide, pleading eyes out of her mind.

J. G. Jenkins.

THE DAILY COLONIST, Sept. 25,
U.S. Senator Thomas Dodd:

"The Soviet government has been promised port facilities in Lagos," by the Nigerians in exchange for military aid.

"This would bring the Red navy into the Atlantic Ocean with a vengeance," Senator Dodd said.

Anybody surprised?

"Biafran refugees are now dying of starvation at a rate of 8,000 to 10,000 a day." (International Committee of the Red Cross.)

"death from starvation has been stabilized ----- stabilized let it be marked ----- at 6,000 a day."

Editorial & report -
Daily Colonist Sept. 29th.



EPILOGUE

The Daily Colonist, October 6, 1968 - "...it was understood that it (one other secret airstrip) was only big enough for light aircraft, and possibly was intended as an escape route for leading secessionists. (ours)

It could be, the rich owners of Biafra are willing to fight their war, right down to the last hungry Ibo. They have nothing to lose but their profits, and otherwise.

In the last issue, our readers were treated to a brief glimpse of a surviving Blacksmith and his particular type of work. The article is now concluded with an historical aspect.

THE BLACKSMITH

As should be the case in any general history there are no dates in this one. For man evolved at different paces in different areas, depending on the circumstances and material conditions surrounding him.

So it is with the Blacksmith. In fact, no records are kept of the time he pounded white hot iron into usable bars or of how many times a bit of carbon from the forge coke got into the iron accidentally, resulting in a harder and stronger product, before the smith discovered what he had done and began to do purposely what previously had been only an occasional accident. What is referred to of course is the production of steel.

Steel that would go into suits of armour, swords and pistols that would later pierce that armour, and cannon, bombs and battleship, tractors and hypodermic needles, carriage axles, steam locomotives and automobiles. A wide spectrum of tools, machines and buildings without which the hugh modern productive machine that capitalism has built would not be possible.

But the smith was linked to other processes in this great technological evolution. The first awkward looking set of false teeth came from his forge. Somewhat superior and less gruesome than the earlier method of solving the problem of an abscessed tooth. There is record that at one time people of wealth would have their decayed tooth replaced by the sound tooth of some poverty stricken wretch who would surrender it for a few measly, but sorely needed coins. The donor may have had some small satisfaction in the realization that he only need suffer one rude extraction, while the recipient had the additional ordeal of having the smith drive the new tooth into his gums. So our Smith, in a sense, fathered dentistry. His searing irons cauterizing a wound also involve his past with medicine. And even today, there are venerable individuals who can remember their childhood trips to the smith to get their hair cut.

The list of the blacksmiths accomplishments seems almost endless, but one of the most remarkable is his contribution to the field of finance.

But first, it is necessary to understand the background. Any reasonable person will, of course, understand that mankind didn't come out of the ocean with a credit card in his pocket (or a handful of shells as some looneys would have it) and head for the first supermarket. Man evolved from simple into ever more complex social relationships. In the earliest societies, man conducted his affairs solely for the need of the group or tribe. But, as productivity grew, a surplus accumulated and slavery became an economic possibility and a somewhat ugly fact of life. Slavery further increased productivity and made trade possible.

The earliest forms of trade were straight barter. The man with a spare spear met a man with a spare basket and the deal was done. The dealings would be most chancy at first, but as time went by our ancestors would want to know if the deal was fair and if it took twice as long to make a spear as to make a

basket, our warrior would insist on two baskets for one spear. This was fine for simple barter but if the man who had the basket didn't want a spear but a fat piglet and the man with the fat piglet wanted a knife, they were in real trouble. The situation demanded something that was valuable (that is, it had a lot of work time in it). Easily portable and non-perishable, many metals and jewels came into play and eventually above all evolved gold - money. Now all our basket weaver had to do was trade his basket for an amount of gold that took the same time to produce as his basket and then exchange it on the same basis for what he wanted.

Inevitably some individuals were developing quite a limp from the weighty stuff and apart from the discomfort they were an easy mark for robbers.

This is where our smith makes the scene again. He went to work and built some stout vaults at the back of his shop, which for a modest fee he rented out to those lucky enough to have accumulated the yellow stuff. As time went along, people tired of running down to the smiths every time they wanted to trade. Someone would eventually say, look, I have a receipt for so much gold at the smiths, and would trade the receipt. Now our smith unwittingly has contributed currency.

As the decades passed there were more and more of these receipts being exchanged. Of course, the inevitable occurred. One of our more opportunist blacksmiths would say to himself. "I have all these peoples gold in here but very seldom does anyone come to claim theirs. I think I can safely lend half their gold to other people and make myself quite a turn."

So there we have it. Our first financier was a crooked blacksmith. Many people think he still is.

It might seem ironic, after this brief glimpse of a tremendous technological contribution, little to nothing is taught or written about this man from a dying trade. But it is not ironic at all. The world belongs to the capitalist class. They are largely in control of what is taught, spoken and written. And the capitalist class have a long history of scorning and at the same time, fearing those who produce their comfort.

A recent survey reveals that a quarter of this country is covered by forests. The other three-quarters is covered by mortgages. (Vic. Daily Times) Sept. 10, /63.)

According to the 1961 Canadian census "owner" occupied houses made up 66% of all homes in the country. Included in this percentage of course is a big proportion of people who are making payments on homes but will never really own them. There seems to be no figure available on the insubstantial percentage of occupiers who have title deeds

The 1966 census puts 1,910,503 as rented and 3,269,970 as "owned." In view of the current housing shortage the recent decision of the federal government to supply 170 million dollars to the N.H.A. is, shall we say, tragedy-comedian? This will build about 10,000 \$17,000 houses - or - \$17,000 of mortgage on each of 10,000 \$24,000 homes. The suspicion is that most home ownership in Canada is by shareholders of mortgage companies.

And how many houses are needed ?

NO CURE FOR THE NEGROES IN PRESENT SOCIETY

On a recent Wednesday evening T.V. show "The View of a Few" the plight of the American Negro was discussed. One panelist suggested the coloured people should set up their own businesses and even banks, inferring that they should withdraw from white society and live as a separate entity. Besides being a rather inane idea, anyone who has lived near and travelled in populous Negro areas in cities like Cleveland, Chicago, Detroit and in the deep south will know that the establishment of coloured businesses is far advanced and that there are numerous wealthy Negroes just as there are wealthy whites.

And this is really the crux of the problem plaguing American society today. What are the real aspirations of the movement led by Martin Luther King and his apostles? King himself talked in riddles, he was close to God in his dreams, obscure in his words, and it was difficult to judge him as a humanitarian or a materialist. His disciples, however, were not so abstruse. They frequently discarded the King verbiage and spoke out frankly. They have said; "Why should the Negro be excluded from the white man's exclusive clubs? Why can't the Negro play on the white man's top golf courses and eat in his expensive restaurants? Why should he be kept out of exclusive white man's housing neighbourhoods? "

The wealthy Negroes got their property the same way white men got theirs. They are in a variety of businesses ranging from apartment blocks, auto sales and repairs, house building, hotels and motels, and bible thumping. They have their own exclusive clubs but resent the segregation forced on them by the white man. Nothing disturbs a wealthy man more than being barred from showing it. The current wave of property destruction in American cities will break down some of these barriers, for in this system property, white or coloured, is sacred.

There are approximately 22 million Negroes in the U.S. today. Those with property may have won their point with the Administration. But what of the millions without wealth who formed the backbone of the meetings and marches and demonstrations of the last few years? For them the present society can offer nothing.

A. Shepard.
Winnipeg

We (the Negro demonstrators) shall end... with a sharp disillusionment when the rallies are over. We had this experience with sit-downs in the 30s. We are basically a working class group. We will not move unless we move with the rest of the working class.

A. Philip Randolph
President, Brotherhood of
Sleeping Car Porters.
(New Republic, 7/6/63)

"MAN'S RULE TO GIVE WAY TO GOD'S RULE" So says a Jehovah's Witness tract. Why bother with rulers and ruled as a principle of society? Lets dispense with all rule and establish democracy.

ADVICE TO LIFELORN LEFTISTS

Both old and new.

You are barking up the wrong tree. It is not the way the system is run that is the cause of our problems. It is the system itself. The sameness of the left-wing conservative as the right-wing variety is much more evident in their election platforms now than ever before. The "liberals in a hurry" are not in so much of a hurry as in days of yore. Take the label off each party and try to distinguish the organization just from its policies and you'll have a tough time.

In a recent provincial election the B.C. Progressive Conservative party had 2 or 3 planks that the Russian conservatives had in their platform.

The earth has evolved into one integrated and socially dangerous profit making enterprise. A tropical storm in Pakistan upsets the stock exchange in Vancouver. Nikita Khruschev loses his job in Moscow and the New York Dow Jones industrial average falls by 12 points. The Stalinists invade Czechoslovakia and some stock markets tumble again. The world suffers a monetary crisis in which the U.S. dollar is endangered, and the Russians keep quiet. They avoid any upset of the applecart because its partly their applecart too.

The "Communists" of Cuba trade with the "Fascists" of Spain. They both trade with the "Laborites" of Britain. The Viet Cong electorally campaign on a program of establishing capitalism, North Vietnamese style. The ideologies are used by the various national bosses to keep their own henchlings obediently producing the loot for them. Otherwise there would be no wealth for them to fight over, for one thing. And in their jockeying for materials and markets, the major powers hold a nuclear gun at each other's heads. All the bombs operate on the same physical principles no matter what ideology is used as the excuse. And they are the dangerous result of the same world-wide social arrangement - production for sale for profit. And leftists still think this system can be altered or patched up to operate in the interests of society.

They are courageous people indeed.

Washington - Army Capt. Howard Levy's attorney asked a review board to reverse his three year court martial sentence because his anti-war statements, by the Constitution's guarantee of free speech.
(The Daily Colonist, July 12/68)

(were protected)



"My right to free speech is guaranteed by the Constitution. So there."

FACTS ON RACE

With another Immigrants Act; with the scaring report on last year's riots in Newark, New Jersey; with the legal battle over the condemned Africans in Rhodesia; with the preparations in the United States for another long, hot summer; race is once more making the news.

In pubs, bus queues, workshops, offices and homes a variety of theories - if they can be graced with the name - is being propounded. It is time, then, for yet another statement of the facts on race, which all workers should bear in mind.

FACT ONE: Although there is any number of racial theories, and of racialists, nobody has yet been able to fix conclusively the dividing line between races, nor indeed the number of races that exist.

FACT TWO: There is absolutely no evidence, despite exhaustive and persistent attempts to get some, that human beings whose skin is of one colour are superior or inferior to those whose skin is of another colour.

FACT THREE: We live in a capitalist society which is world wide and which divides its people into two classes - capitalists and workers.

FACT FOUR: These two classes are also world wide and cut across any other divisions of race, sex or religion. Thus there are "coloured" capitalists as well as "coloured" workers, "white" workers as well as "white" capitalists.

FACT FIVE: The interests of workers are opposed to those of the capitalists.

FACT SIX: All capitalists have a common interest and so have all workers. The workers' is in unity - as long as capitalism lasts to improve their conditions and, more important, to organise for the abolition of capitalism and its replacement by Socialism.

FACT SEVEN: Racial theories and prejudices, because they are false and because they operate against working class unity, are a barrier to the understanding of Socialism. They are, therefore, against the interests of the workers and should be rejected by them.

FACT EIGHT: Only when we have Socialism will all human beings be able to cooperate freely for the benefit of society. Only Socialism will end the pernicious scourge of racism.

SOCIALISM

By Common ownership we mean that each individual will own the whole world and everything in it and he or she will do so in common with the rest of mankind. The world will be one and its people will be one.

THE MYTH

- by Tom Bitting

Our lives are cast in a world of human devices which impose upon us conditions more inflexible than the laws of physical nature and which we, as individuals, are even more powerless to control or modify.

That world is man made, it is the outcome of human purposos, the expression of human desires and endeavours. Yet for the vast majority its workings are wrapped in mystery. The structure of the milky way and of the atom is in many respects better understood than is the nature and structure of what is termed human society.

Yet that structure is as much the product of human agencies as is any mechanism fashioned by the hand of man and should be as intelligible as that of an automobile to the engineer who built it. No exploration by means of scientific apparatus is required to discover its design, no elaborate enquiry or research even is needful. If to the great majority they remain inapprehensible it is because over them has been drawn the veil of a consecrated and agelong myth.

The structure of the man-made world is spoken of as human society. A society means a fellowship, a voluntary association of individuals inspired by a common purpose, working for a common object, in view of benefits common to all, in which every member is equally interested in the success of the common endeavour. Mankind has, one is given to understand, at some time or other adopted from choice that social organization and fashioned it for its own purposos.

The philosophers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries were fond of enlarging on the thesis. Social organization, they represented, was the result of an agreement or contract by which people had consented to waive certain personal liberties in exchange for the advantages accruing from membership in a social organization. The task of devising it had been entrusted to rulers and ruling classes on whom power was bestowed for the purpose of providing for the general good of mankind. Those views are mythical.

The purpose of that organization has not been to give effect to the desires of mankind and to promote its interests, but to give effect to the desires of a ruling class and to promote their interests. And the interests of a ruling class possessing privileged and profitable power are not only different from those of mankind in general; they are opposite.

The plea that an organization originally established for the purpose of promoting the interests of a ruling class has, as a result of reforms, become transferred into an organization having for its purpose the promotion of the interests of mankind at large is fictitious and grossly absurd. Such a transformation is, in the first place, not possible, an organization designed to carry out the former purpose cannot give rise to one calculated to bring about the latter. Nor can it in any way and by any means be modified or adapted so as to perform a function wholly different from that which it was designed to perform except by abolishing it.

In society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess, this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution.

THE INTRODUCTION TO
PERRY NOYA
THE MISUNDERSTOOD SOCIALIST

Few people would expect that a person of Perry Noya's background would ever become a Socialist. But Perry's whole life has always been surrounded by controversy. Perry rarely if ever actually caused the controversy. Controversy followed him wherever he went. Like the time, in a mid-western city when he stopped a young man who was beating a beautiful girl. It turned out that the young man was the mayor's son and that all the matronly Christian women, though they might better direct their energies toward their husbands, had been trying to get the girl driven out of town. This time, under threat of court action, they were successful and Perry to boot.

Perry came from an economically secure family. His mother was always busy with clubs and social services, her most outstanding status symbol was that she was PRESIDENT OF THE CHRISTIAN LEAGUE FOR RESPECTABLE BIRTH CONTROL. His father was a bookkeeper for a respectable firm that specialized in mortgage and loan repossession. He was quiet and well regarded in spite of the fact that everyone in town knew he was a card-carrying-baptist. They all lived together in a large well kept old mansion along with Perry's twelve brothers and sisters.

It seems that the exposure of such an environment had quite an indelible effect on Perry. For example Perry knew the circumstances of many of the people, on whom his father's firm had to foreclose. He also became aware that of the funds collected in his mother's and her friend's charity drives less than fifty per cent actually arrived at their intended destiny. Not that there was any dishonesty but there were secretaries to hire, advertising to do etc. True the daily papers backed the charity drives but only on a pro rato of advertising space paid for. Not only that but Perry was filled with revulsion by the fact that most of the volunteers had little real feeling for the intended victimized beneficiaries. They used it mainly as a social event and "something we more fortunate must do." They were content that the poor must always be with us.

Of course, Perry's brothers and sisters were exposed to the same environment, but whether they had successfully insulated themselves from human suffering or whether Perry was extra socially sensitive, none of them fell into the "horrifying tragedy" of becoming a Socialist as did Perry.

Even becoming a Socialist was a controversy for Perry, for many old Socialists harbored secret doubt that anyone from such an affluent and religious background could be an asset to the movement. While their doubts proved unfounded, Perry and his misadventures were often an embarrassment to the movement.

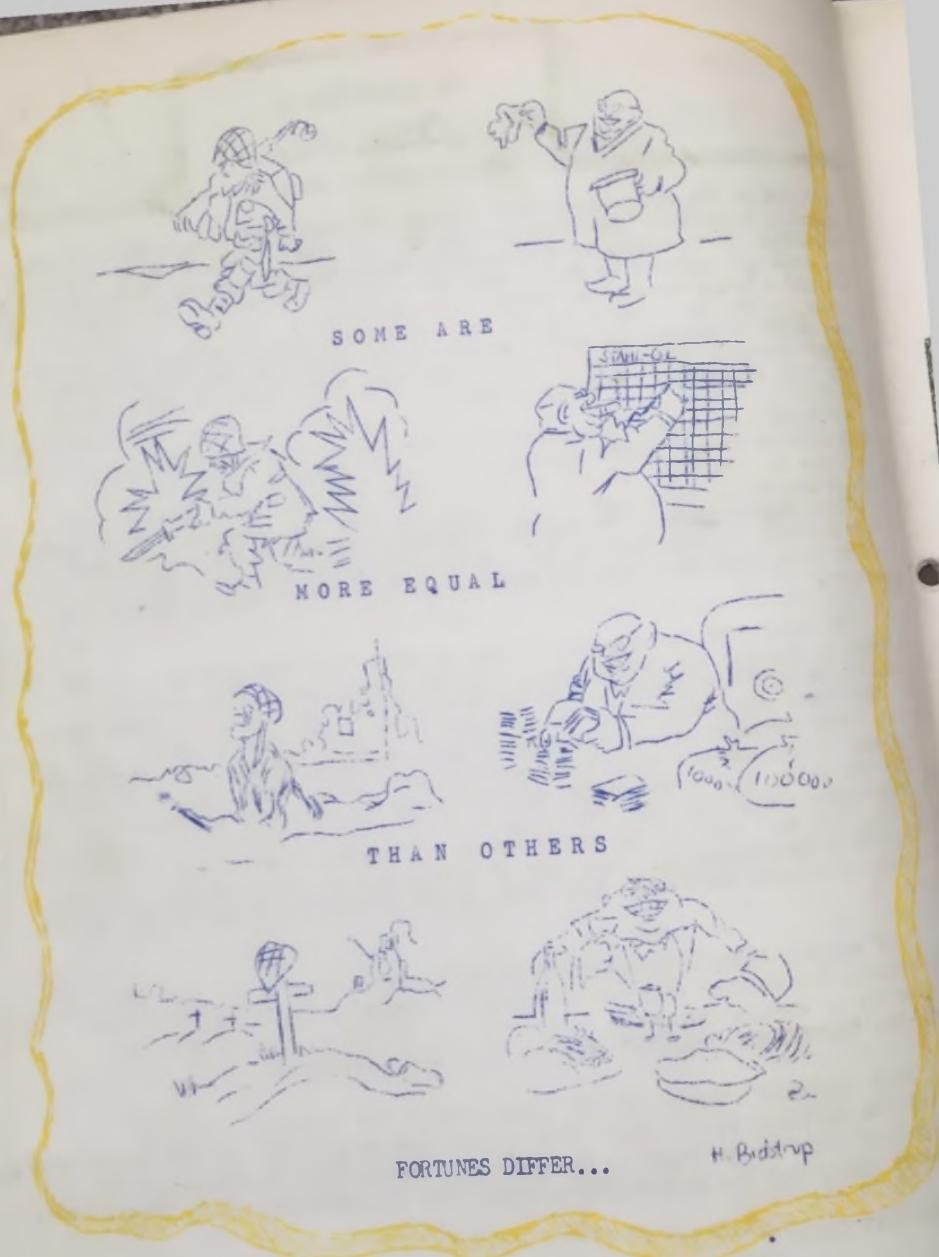
In the next issue

PERRY GOES TO JAIL

IN MY VILLAGE 'CROSS THE SEA
I WATCH THE PLANES GO OVERHEAD
SENDING US IN MAD MELEE
TO FLEE THE BOMBS DROPPED ON OUR HEADS.

THE BOMBS EXPLODE AND DEADLY GAS
ESCAPES UNTIL MY PEOPLE LAY
UNDERNEATH THE PLANES THAT PASS
WHEN ALL OUR LIFE HAS GONE AWAY

glen tickner



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	15 issues...\$2
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